

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01309 141856Z

73

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DLOS-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CG-00 DOTE-00

CIEP-02 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 ACDA-10 /125 W

----- 069051

R 141815Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7068

UNCLAS NASSAU 1309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS BF

SUBJ: SPINY LOBSTER NEGOTIATION - JOINT PRESS RELEASE

REF: NASSAU 1306

1. THE FOLLOWING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR SEYMOUR WEISS, SHOULD BE ADDED TO REFTEL AS ONE OF THE ATTACHMENTS TO THE JOINT PRESS RELEASE:

QUOTE OPENING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR SEYMOUR WEISS - U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE BAHAMAS SPINY LOBSTER NEGOTIATION - AUGUST 13, 1975

MR. MINISTER,  
ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES AND MYSELF LET ME SAY THAT WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING AN AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH UNITED STATES BASED FISHERMEN MAY BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO FISH FOR LOBSTER ON THE BAHAMIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF.

WE ARE, OF COURSE, FAMILIAR WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01309 141856Z

FISHING ACT OF 1969 AS AMENDED AND THE PROVISION THAT IT MAKES

FOR ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER NATIONS TO PERMIT SUCH FISHING. WHILE I WOULD NOT IN ANY SENSE WISH TO UNDERESTIMATE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WHICH MAY PRESENT THEMSELVES IN WORKING OUT A DETAILED ARRANGEMENT, NEVERTHELESS, AS YOU WELL KNOW FROM OUR MANY PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT AN AGREEMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE INTERESTS OF BOTH NATIONS CAN BE DEVELOPED.

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MY GOVERNMENT, OUR INTEREST IS SELF-APPARENT AND WE HAVE MADE NO PRETENSE ABOUT IT. WE HAVE A LARGE AND ACTIVE FISHING INDUSTRY LARGEY BASED IN FLORIDA WHICH FOR MANY YEARS HAS DEPENDED UPON ACCESS TO LOBSTERS IN THESE WATERS. TO PUT IT IN HUMANITARIAN TERMS LARGE NUMBERS OF FISHERMEN WHO HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO OTHEG MSANS FOR SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES ARE PRESENTLY IDLED. THIS IS NOT ONLY A SERIOUS MATTER BUT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW ONE REUUIRING URGENT ATTENTION. IN APPROACHING THIS PROBLEM AND IN ATTEMPTING TO MEET OUR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE DO NOT DO SO FROM A NARROW POINT OF VIEW. TO THE CONTRARY IN SOLVING OUR PROBLEM WE HOPE TO CONSIDER WITH YOU APPROACHES WHICH YOU WILL FIND CONSISTENT WITH ADVANCING YOUR OWN INTERESTS. INDEED WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A MANIFEST COMMONALITY OF PURPOSE AGREEMENT IN UNLIKELY.

WITHOUT BEING PRESUMPTOUS, WE HOPE THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS CAN DEMONSTRATE IT IS AT LEAST EQUALY IN YOUR COUNTRY'S INTEREST TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF THE SORT I HAVE BEEN ALLUDING TO. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU ARE ANXIOUS THAT YOUR LOBSTER RESOURCE NOT BE UTILIZED IN SUCH A MANNER SO THAT ITS VIABILITY AS A RESOURCE OVER THE INDEFINITE FUTURE IS LOST TO THE BAHAMAS. SECONDLY, AND NOT UNRELATED TO THE PREVIOUS POINT, YOU PRESUMABLY WISH TO GAIN ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM THE EXPLOITATION OF THAT RESOURCE.

WITH REGARD TO BOTH THE AFOREMENTIONED POINTS WE BELIEVE THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN AND SHOULD MEET YOUR ASPIRATIONS. MORE-OVER, WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH POINTS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN AN AGREEMENT WHICH AT THE SAME TIME DOES PERMIT OUT FISHERMEN TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01309 141856Z

WHILE I HAVE INDICATED THAT IN MY VIEW EACH OF THE GOVERNMENTS HAVE OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE MUTUALLY CONSISTENT I RECOGNISE FULL WELL THAT THAT CONCLUSION REMAINS TO BE DEMONSTRATED BY REFERENCE TO THE SPECIFICS OF ANY PROPOSAL WHICH MAY BE AGREED UPON. THAT IS, OF COURSE, WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN THESE MEETINGS. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IN ADDITION TO THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL INTERESTS WHICH EACH OF US SHARE IN ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT, I THINK THAT THERE IS ALSO A COMPOSITE

COMMON INTEREST WHICH IN A SENSE SUPERIMPOSES ITSELF UPON EACH OF OUR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS AS THESE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS RELATE SOLELY TO THE FISHERY ISSUE. OUR COUNTRIES HAVE HAD AND CONTINUE TO HAVE A VERY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP FROM WHICH BOTH NATIONS HAVE BENEFITTED. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP WHICH I HAVE NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER BOTH NATIONS WISH TO FOSTER AND INDEED OVER TIME EVEN IMPROVE UPON. AN AGREEMENT WHICH ACCOMMODATES OUR MUTUAL NATIONAL INTERESTS IS THE ONLY OUTCOME OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITIVE CHARACTER OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

THUS IT IS THESE CONSIDERATIONS:

-- THE FACT THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN AND SHOULD MEET IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES AND MY EARNEST BELIEF THAT AN AGREEMENT MEETING SUCH A PRESCRIPTION CAN BE DEVISED AND

-- THE FACT THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE WHICH IS MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES IS IMPORTANT TO THE TOTALITY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, THAT I BASE MY CONFIDENCE ON OUR ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

WITH THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND, MR. MINISTER, MY GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AVAILABLE THE VERY BEST EXPERTS THAT IT HAS IN FISHERIES MATTERS. IN PARTICULAR, MR. DAVID WALLACE OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS A MAN OF OUTSTANDING CREDENTIALS IN FISHERY PROBLEMS HAVING HAD MANY YEARS IN DEALING WITH THOSE PROBLEMS ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL FIND MR. WALLACE NOT JUST EXPERT IN THE DETAILS OF THE FISHERY PROBLEM BUT A SYMPATHETIC AND INTELLIGENT MAN EARNESTLY DESIROUS OF FINDING THE EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO WHICH

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 NASSAU 01309 141856Z

I HAVE REFERRED. HE IS, MOREOVER, SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF ADVISORS WHOM WE HOPE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE AS THESE DISCUSSIONS PROGRESS. I BELIEVE IT IS A TESTIMONY AS TO THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTRIBUTE TO THESE DISCUSSIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ASSEMBLED UNDER MR. WALLACE'S LEADERSHIP SUCH AN EMINENTLY QUALIFIED TEAM.

MR. MINISTER, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT I MYSELF, MR. WALLACE, AND OUR ENTIRE TEAM APPROACH THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH AN OPEN MIND, DEDICATED SOLELY TO ACHIEVING AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT WHICH CAN FORM STILL ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH BINDS OUR TWO NATIONS. FINALLY, I ALSO WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DEVOTE SUCH TIME AS NECESSARY AND, TO QUOTE YOUR PRIME MINISTER'S EARLIER COMMENT TO ME, TO CONDUCT AS INTENSE AND CONCENTRATED NEGOTIATION AS

NECESSARY WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING AS RAPID AND SUCCESSFUL A  
CONCLUSION TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS IS FEASIBLE.

WE ARE, MR. MINISTER, AT YOUR DISPOSAL. UNQUOTE  
WEISS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHELLFISH, CONTINENTAL SHELF, SPEECHES, NEGOTIATIONS, FISHING AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NASSAU01309  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750281-1018  
**From:** NASSAU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750853/aaaabufe.tel  
**Line Count:** 174  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OFA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 NASSAU 1306  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 DEC 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 DEC 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by ellisob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPINY LOBSTER NEGOTIATION - JOINT PRESS RELEASE  
**TAGS:** EFIS, BF, US, (WEISS, SEYMOUR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006